CLAIMS:

We claim:

1. A method of operating a communication system comprising:

programming a first switch to terminate calls directed to at least one phone number;

establishing a disaster recovery plan to terminate the at least one phone number at a second switch in response to the occurrence of a predetermined event;

in response to the occurrence of the predetermined event, programming a local copy of a local number portability database to direct communications for the at least one phone number to the second switch.

2. The method of claim 1 where the second switch is programmed to terminate calls to the at least one phone number.

3. The method of claim 1 where the second switch is programmed to terminate calls to the at least one phone number before the occurrence of the predetermined event and where the second switch is activated to terminate calls to the at least one phone number after the occurrence of the predetermined event.

4. The method of claim 1 where the local copy of the local number portability database directs communications for the at least one phone number to the first switch before the occurrence of the predetermined event.

5. The method of claim 1 where the local copy of the local number portability database is queried whenever an on-net originating switch processes a call that will be terminated by on-net switch.

6. The method of claim 1 where the local copy of the local number portability database is queried when the at least one phone number is within a predetermined range of phone numbers.

7. The method of claim 1 where the local copy of the local number portability database is queried when the request for a connection to an on-net switch comes from an off-net device.

8. The method of claim 1 where the predetermined event is when the first switch becomes disabled.

9. The method of claim 8 where the programming of the local number portability database to direct communications for the at least one phone number to the second switch occurs automatically with the determination that the first switch is disabled.

10. The method of claim 1 where the second switch is located in a different geographic area than the first switch.

11. The method of claim 1 where the at least one phone number is a phone number resulting from the translation of a toll free phone number.

12. The method of claim 11 where the at least one phone number can also be dialed directly.

13. The method of claim 1 where programming the local number portability database is done from a web page.

14. The method of claim 13 where the second switch is changed to terminate calls to the at least one phone number using the web page.

15. The method of claim 14 where the change made to the second switch is to activate the termination of pre-programmed numbers from the first switch.

16. The method of claim 1 where the communications for the at least one phone number are directed to the second switch by changing the location route number in the local number portability database.

17. The method of claim 1 where the local number portability database is a local copy of the regional local number portability database and the local copy of the local number portability database is under the control of only 1 service provider.

18. The method of claim 1 where all the phone numbers actively terminated by the first switch are ported to the second switch.

19. A communication system comprising:

a first switch programmed to terminate calls directed to at least one phone number;

a disaster recovery plan to terminate the at least one phone number at a second switch in response to the occurrence of a predetermined event;

a local copy of a local number portability database configured to direct communications for the at least one phone number to the second switch in response to the occurrence of the predetermined event.

20. The communication system of claim 19 where the second switch is programmed to terminate calls to the at least one phone number before the occurrence of the predetermined event and where the second switch is activated to terminate calls to the at least one phone number after the occurrence of the predetermined event.

21. The communication system of claim 19 where the local copy of the local number portability database directs communications for the at least one phone number to the first switch before the occurrence of the predetermined event.

22. The communication system of claim 19 where the local copy of the local number portability database is queried whenever an on-net originating switch processes a call that will be terminated by on-net switch.

23. The communication system of claim 19 where the local copy of the local number portability database is queried when the at least one phone number is within a predetermined range of phone numbers.

24. The communication system of claim 19 where the local copy of the local number portability database is queried when the request for a connection to an on-net switch comes from an off-net device.

25. The communication system of claim 19 where the predetermined event is when the first switch becomes disabled.

26. The communication system of claim 25 where the programming of the local number portability database to direct communications for the at least one phone number to the second switch occurs automatically with the determination that the first switch is disabled.

27. The communication system of claim 19 where the second switch is located in a different geographic area than the first switch.

28. The communication system of claim 19 where the at least one phone number is a phone number resulting from the translation of a toll free phone number.

29. The communication system of claim 28 where the at least one phone number can also be dialed directly.

30. The communication system of claim 19 where programming the local number portability database is done from a web page.

31. The communication system of claim 30 where the second switch is changed to terminate calls to the at least one phone number using the web page.

32. The communication system of claim 31 where the change made to the second switch is to activate the termination of pre-programmed numbers from the first switch.

33. The communication system of claim 19 where the communications for the at least one phone number are directed to the second switch by changing the location route number in the local number portability database.

34. The communication system of claim 19 where the local number portability database is a local copy of the regional local number portability database and the local copy of the local number portability database is under the control of only 1 service provider.

35. The communication system of claim 19 where all the phone numbers actively terminated by the first switch are ported to the second switch